

FISCAL NOTE
HB 1092 - SB 1170

January 9, 2004

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Department of Human Services to establish a Domestic Abuse Death Review Council. The council is to assist local agencies dealing with domestic abuse cases. The council is to be composed of a chief medical examiner, a local law enforcement representative, a licensed physician and mental health professional and other persons involved with domestic abuse issues. Relevant state agencies are to appoint a liaison to the council. Council members are immune from liability and documents produced by the council related to a death are confidential and not subject to discovery. The council is given subpoena power to obtain records, including medical records.

Requires the council to prepare an annual report including statistics gathered from a review of death certificates and other pertinent information. The council is to develop protocols for domestic abuse death investigations. When investigating individual cases the council is to review the personal relationships of the victim and the perpetrator as well as any legal records, including protective orders and custody agreements.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$173,035 Recurring
\$128,600 One-Time

Estimate assumes:

- creation of a new program in the Department of Health and a need for two new positions and related expenses, including development of a database to collect and analyze relevant information.
- the program will not be responsible for a significant amount of training at the local level but is required to develop protocols for investigation of deaths caused by domestic violence.
- the department will not be required to make a manual review of documents such as death certificates to find deaths related to domestic abuse but can use all reasonable measures to identify such cases in both state and local records.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director

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